



## **JOINT FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM**

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### **STAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP NAMED FOR INTERAGENCY FIRE SCIENCE PROGRAM**

A 30-member advisory group has been approved to provide assistance and advice to the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture for the interagency Joint Fire Science Program, established and funded by Congress in 1998 to develop science-based strategies to better manage the vegetation on public lands and lessen the risk of catastrophic wildland fires.

The advisory group is comprised of 15 federal and 15 non-federal technical advisors who bring a variety of expertise to the program. The 15 federal members represent the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior; the non-federal members were selected from universities, private foundations, and state and local governments with an interest in improving ecosystem health on the nation's public lands, and the effects of wildland fire.

The group's duties are to gather and analyze information, consider public comments, and make recommendations from a public interest perspective on priorities and strategies for completing wildland fire and fuels research, implementing research findings, and oversight of the Joint Fire Science Program. The group's charter was approved on January 18, under the Federal Advisory and Committee Act (FACA).

Dr. Bob Clark, manager for the Joint Fire Science Program at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise, Idaho, said, "This group will be invaluable in bringing us a variety of viewpoints and perspectives as we develop scientific tools and applications that will be available for fire managers so they can make the best decisions in managing fuels, using fire or other means."

The Joint Fire Science Program is managed by an 10-member interagency governing board, representing the USDA Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, that will make all final decisions on recommendations and findings provided by the stakeholder advisory group for the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture.

The Stakeholder Advisory Group Charter, Federal Register notice, lists of members and affiliation, and reports on the Joint Fire Science Program can be viewed via Internet at [www.nifc.gov/joint\\_fire\\_sci/jointfiresci.html](http://www.nifc.gov/joint_fire_sci/jointfiresci.html) or [www.nifc.gov](http://www.nifc.gov).